

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 16, 2014**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:02 p.m., Mayor Bruno called the meeting to order and stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting the same on the bulletin board of Town Hall and forwarding a copy to the Courier News and Star Ledger at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting will not go substantially past 10:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore, Mrs. Kingsley and Mayor Bruno answered present. Also present was Township Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Township Administrator John Bussiculo and Township Clerk Ana Minkoff.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Bruno asked everyone present to stand as he led the Flag Salute.

**PROCLAMATION – Mayor Joseph G. Bruno**

Mrs. Kingsley noted that this was Council's last meeting of the year as well as Mr. Woodruff's last council meeting as a council person, Mayor Bruno's last Council Meeting as Mayor, and that Mr. Marc Faecher would be joining them in January as a new Council person. Mrs. Kingsley announced that a few people from the audience would like to address Mayor Bruno before he would be honored with a proclamation.

**Mayor Joseph G. Bruno -**

Helen Kirsch spoke of Mayor's service to the Board of Education (beginning in 1997) and both the Board of Education's and Mayor Bruno's specific achievements during his tenure with the Board of Education. She wished Mayor Bruno much happiness and success in future endeavors.

Stephanie Bakos stated that she was representing the Library Board. In her 25 years with the Library, Stephanie noted that the Mayor attended more Board meetings than any Mayor. She considered Mayor Bruno having a library card as one of her personal accomplishments. Stephanie also commented that the Mayor was a good resource for her.

Tony Padavano, on behalf of the Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management, congratulated the Mayor on his successful years as Committeeman and Mayor. Mr. Padavano spoke about the many times the Mayor and he worked side by side, specifically the Blizzard (December 2010,) Hurricane Irene, the Halloween Snow Storm of 2011, and Super Storm Sandy. Mr. Padavano spoke about the two week period following Super Storm Sandy and their collaboration until each and every resident had their power restored. Mr. Padavano spoke about working with the Mayor during the aftermath of the July 2013 Tornado. Mr. Padavano spoke about the Mayor's response during structure fires which occurred throughout the town during his tenure. In closing, Mr. Padavano thanked the Mayor for his confidence and wished him success in the future. Mr. Padavano believes that Berkeley Heights is a better place because of Mayor Bruno.

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Mrs. Kingsley presented Mayor Bruno with a proclamation. She noted his 22 years of residency in Berkeley Heights, his 9 years with the Board of Education, his 4 years of Committeemen and Councilman service, and his tenure as Mayor since January 2011. During his time as Mayor, Mrs. Kingsley noted that the Mayor performed marriages, recognized Boy Scouts with Eagle Scout awards, attended ribbon cuttings for local businesses, performed Mack the Knife for Senior Citizens at the Berkeley Heights Rehab Center, read to school children and worked for both residents and DPW and First Responders' safety during Hurricanes Irene and Super Storm Sandy. Mrs. Kingsley noted that the Mayor's tenure would be completed on December 31, 2015. She stated that Berkeley Heights, on behalf of its citizens, formally recognized the Mayor's long term and ongoing service to the Township. Mrs. Kingsley then presented a proclamation and a gavel to the Mayor. She thanked the Mayor for his dedication and his many years of service to the Township.

Mayor Bruno thanked the people of Berkeley Heights for the tremendous opportunity to serve as Mayor. He spoke about serving with specific colleagues and some of his various roles. He noted that it has been his pleasure to serve and has enjoyed serving immensely. He specifically thanked Arlene, David, Helen, and Paul and so many great Board people. He thanked his wife, noting he'd be nowhere without her. The Mayor noted that "his thanks" could go on and on.

Mrs. Kingsley stated that there would be a ten minute break for coffee and cake so that all could speak with and acknowledge Mayor Bruno.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

The Mayor announced that there would be a short presentation by former Mayor Dan Palladino regarding Scouting and the Eagle Scout projects. Mayor Palladino thanked Mayor Bruno for his efforts on behalf of the Historical Society. Former Mayor Palladino spoke about the 3 Eagle Scouts and their projects (two of the Eagle Scouts were in attendance.) The projects pertain to the Historical Society, specifically the Littel Lord Museum and 1) the kitchen cleaning, 2) a historical tour map and guide, and 3) restoration of the Farmer's Garden. Former Mayor Palladino believes these 3 boys are representative of Berkeley Heights' youth.

#### **TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mr. Delia followed up last meeting's report on his recent Atlantic City trip, specifically about his attendance at a signage session and thinks the Council should work on this issue next year. Last week, Mr. Delia spent several hours with Mr. Ramentol and found the meeting very productive. He stated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greetings

Mr. Hall spoke about his time working with Mayor Bruno and how the Mayor provided insights for him when he first became a Council person. Mr. Hall believes that a legacy which will be attributed to Mayor Bruno is the increased level of communication and collaboration which has occurred during the last 4 or 5 years between the Mayor, Governing Body and Township departments.

Mr. Pirone stated that he was struck by Mayor's 17 years of continuous community service (i.e., that is a lot of service.)

Mr. Woodruff added his congratulations to the Mayor. Mr. Woodruff mentioned the excess amount of signage on Springfield Avenue (both his concern and other citizens' concerns of late.) He suggested we pay attention to the ordinances "on the books". Towards that end, Mr. Woodruff asked Mr. Bussiculo to speak on this, adding that the intent was not to harass anyone.

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Mr. Bussiculo stated that Mr. Bocko, the Zoning Officer, and he took a car ride this past Wednesday. Mr. Bocko then issued violations to the businesses on Thursday and Friday. The signs were taken down by Friday. Mr. Bussiculo reported that the next item to be addressed with respect to signage will be the window signs.

Mr. Woodruff reported on the Memorial Committee. He would like a straw vote on the bricks. Mr. Woodruff spoke about the walkway leading up to the Park. He stated that a brick manufacturer has donated 600 square feet of bricks. A local vendor will donate the remaining 400 square feet. There was a request to match the bricks so there will be consistency (both matching bricks around town and the Beautification Committeemen were referenced). The goal is to improve the Memorial. Mr. Woodruff also stated that a 501c3 will be formulated for the Park, which will enable to raise and distribute monies for the park. The goal is to have all Park work done by April. Mrs. Kingsley asked about the laying formation of the bricks. Mr. Pirone asked about concrete under the bricks. The Mayor asked about engraving the bricks. Mr. Woodruff said the bricks can be engraved after they are installed and could be a potential fundraising tool. The Council agreed to move forward with the brick installation.

Mr. Pastore thanked the Mayor for his service for the last 17 years, as well as thanked Mr. Hall and Mrs. Kingsley for orchestrating a nice event for the Mayor.

Mrs. Kingsley thanked the DPW for the holiday decorations on Springfield Avenue. She thanked the community and the Tedescos for their work with the Manger. There are plans to purchase an angel. Mrs. Kingsley thanked Carolyn George and Tom Barton for the Winter Wonderland. The Santa visit is a magical day.

Mr. Bussiculo followed up regarding the sign issue. There were 25 business that were cited. He then brought up a personnel issue for a non-union employee, Rachele SanFilippo. She has four vacation days left and would like to carry them over to 2015 for extraordinary circumstances (unexpected surgery news received in November.) Mr. Bussiculo asked Council to allow Ms. SanFilippo to carry over the 4 (four) days into 2015. Mayor Bruno stated his opinion that this should be allowed and Council agreed.

Mr. Bussiculo stated that the Sewer Department would like a commercial snow blower. The cost is \$1,400. Currently, snow removal is being done by hand. There is money in the budget for this purchase. There was a question as to whether this was a capital item. Mr. Marceau stated there had been some savings which allowed for available funds. The Mayor asked if it would be a capital item paid by the capital budget. Discussion ensued and the consensus was yes.

Mr. Bussiculo stated that someone in the audience had asked about the Collective Bargaining Agreement Summary Form. He reported that Mr. Patterson had been sent this form. Upon its completion, we will then be able to "get this out." Mr. Bussiculo spoke about asking GRA for a refined study of the new municipal complex at Park Avenue. He will send all the proposal tomorrow, and cited what it included. Discussion ensued regarding the GRA study.

Mayor Bruno thanked Santa for coming to Berkeley Heights twice this past Saturday. He spoke about attending the Asian Indian Church's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Mayor spoke about the moving ceremony and lovely dinner there. There is a grand opening tomorrow at Sami's Land and Sea. Some of the governing body will attend. He encouraged people to try Sami's. The Mayor stated that he wanted to say thank you again. He spoke about working with the Seniors (since turning 60 years two years ago) and working with the VFW (and adopting him.) He mentioned John B.'s attendance. He thanked the Department Heads and spoke about the great employees in Township Hall. He stated his thanks for the opportunity to be Mayor.

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The Mayor asked for motion to accept all Township Council Reports.

Moved by Mr. Pirone to accept and approve the Township Council and Administration Reports, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and upon roll call vote.

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**HEARING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – 3 minutes per resident**

Moved by Mr. Hall to open the Hearing on Agenda Items Only, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Hearing no voices, moved by Mr. Hall to close the Hearing on Agenda Items Only, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCED ON  
DECEMBER 2, 2014:**

The Clerk presented and read:

**“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF UNION,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION  
2.128.110 ENTITLED “VACATIONS” OF CHAPTER 2.128 ENTITLED “PERSONNEL  
SYSTEM” OF TITLE 2 ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL” OF THE CODE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS.”**

Moved by Mrs. Kingsley to open the Public Hearing on the Ordinance as read by the Township Clerk, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

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Hearing no voices, moved by Mrs. Kingsley to close the Public Hearing on the Ordinance as read by the Township Clerk, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Moved by Mrs. Kingsley that the ordinance as read by the Township Clerk and hearing held hereon be adopted on final passage and that the Township Clerk is directed to advertise same in the Courier News, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: Mr. Delia  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**NEW BUSINESS- RESOLUTIONS  
OFFICIAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Mr. Delia introduced the following resolution:**

1. Resolution approving Bill List dated December 16, 2014 in the amount of \$357,689.90.

Moved by Mr. Delia to approve resolution #1, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**Mr. Pirone introduced the following resolution:**

2. Resolution authorizing transfers within the 2014 Municipal Budget and Reserves.

Moved by Mr. Pirone to approve resolution #2, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**Mr. Hall introduced the following resolution:**

3. Resolution stating that the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Year End Holiday Crackdown.

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Moved by Mr. Hall to approve resolution #3, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**Mr. Woodruff introduced the following resolution:**

4. Resolution authorizing the Township Engineer to submit a grant application through the Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Grant Program with the NJDEP.

Moved by Mr. Woodruff to approve resolution #4, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted upon by one motion; there will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

**Mr. Pastore introduced the following resolution:**

- a. Resolution appointing Kevin Dreitlein to the active duty roster of the Berkeley Heights Volunteer Fire Department.

Moved by Mr. Pastore to approve Consent Agenda resolution #5a, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**CITIZENS HEARING**

Moved by Mrs. Kingsley to open the Citizens hearing, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Steven Yellen stated that he would like to offer a few words in appreciation for Mayor Bruno and his record as a leader in Berkeley Heights. Mr. Yellen spoke of Mayor Bruno's authenticity. He offered his sincere thanks to Mayor Bruno.

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Joe from the VFW spoke about Mayor Bruno's service with pizza party and baseball game attendance.

Camille Aragona congratulated the Mayor on his future life. She wanted to bring attention to the fantastic job of the Recreation Department. Ms. Aragona stated that she hopes there is more emphasis on hiring more police. Mr. Woodruff said that there will be two more Police hires shortly (probably in January.)

Gerald Kuzmik commended all on the fantastic job done this year. He stated that he would like to address the membership in the volunteer Fire Department and admittance for out of town personnel. Mr. Kuzmik wondered if the new volunteer will be able to respond to a fire when needed. The Mayor assured Mr. Kuzmik that the new volunteer is a DPW employee. When home in Bedminster, he will be contacted by beeper.

Hearing no voices, moved by Mrs. Kingsley to close the Citizens Hearing, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Woodruff to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote  
**(8:24 p.m.)**

Ayes: Mr. Hall, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Kingsley  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**Approved: February 24, 2015**